

General Assistance Emergency Housing:

References in the V.S.A.

33 V.S.A. Chapter 21: General Assistance

§ 2101. Definitions

§ 2102. Repealed. 2015, No. 71 (Adj. Sess.), § 3.

§ 2103. Eligibility

§ 2104. Application or information

§ 2105. Action on application or information

§ 2106. Limitation on liability for medical assistance

§ 2107. Disqualification

§ 2108. Residential weatherization for fuel assistance recipients

§ 2109. Relief by private persons and hospitals

§ 2110. Reimbursement for relief expenditures

§ 2111. Death

§ 2112. Repealed. 2015, No. 71 (Adj. Sess.), § 6.

§ 2113. Action for recovery of expenditures


§ 2114. Rental or Mortgage Arrearage Program

§ 2115. General Assistance program report

Provisions of General Applicability


(Section 2101(4))

“General Assistance” means financial aid to provide the **necessities of life**, including food, clothing, **shelter**, fuel, electricity, medical care, and other items as the Commissioner may prescribe by rule, when a need is found to exist and the applicant is otherwise found eligible.



Provisions of General Applicability (Section 2103—Eligibility)

- (a) **Consistent with available appropriations**, DCF is requires to furnish GA to any otherwise eligible individual unable to provide the **necessities of life** for the individual and dependents of the individual. Except for catastrophic situations (as defined by rule) GA shall not be provided to:
- An individual whose income during the 30 days immediately preceding the date on which assistance is sought is equal to the GA eligibility standard; and
 - An individual who is able-bodied without minor dependents.
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Provisions of General Applicability (Section 2103—Eligibility)

- (b) Eligibility standards for GA need not be the same as those applicable to DCF's categorial assistance programs. In determining eligibility, DCF (pursuant to rule) may account for any other payment to or benefit for the applicant under another DCF program.
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Provisions of General Applicability (Section 2104—Application or information)

- (a) Authorizes a person to apply for GA to “the person or persons designated for that purpose by the Commissioner.”
 - (b) When a designated person receives an application for GA or is informed that a person is in need of GA, the designated person shall:
 - Investigate and make a determination as to the applicant’s eligibility; and
 - Provide emergency assistance as may be required (pursuant to DCF rules).
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Provisions of General Applicability (Section 2105—Action on application or information)

- Requires the Commissioner to “cause an investigation and record to be made” of the circumstances of the person who is alleged to need GA to determine eligibility. Specifically, information shall be sought regarding the person’s:
 - Residence
 - Age
 - Physical condition
 - Earning or other income
 - Ability to be gainfully employed
 - Cause of person’s condition
 - Legally liable supporter’s ability/willingness to assist (if applicable)
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Provisions of General Applicability (Section 2107—Disqualification)

- (a) If the Commissioner or designated person has reason to believe that an applicant or recipient of GA came to the State for the purpose of receiving GA, the applicant or recipient may be found ineligible.
 - (b) Notwithstanding (a), an applicant in immediate need of GA for the applicant or dependent of the applicant shall be granted GA on an emergency basis, which may include providing transportation to the nearest State boundary in the direction of the applicant's choice.
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Provisions of General Applicability (Section 2113—Action for recovery of expenditures)

- If a person who has received GA owns or acquires real or personal property, an interest in real or personal property, or becomes employed, DCF may recover against the person the amount that DCF expended for GA on behalf of the person or person's dependents. If deceased, the State can claim the amount expended against the person's estate.
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Annual General Assistance Program Report (Section 2115(4))

By Sept. 1 of each year, DCF shall submit a written report to various committees of the GA that shall address (among other elements) “statewide statistics using deidentified data related to the use of emergency housing vouchers during the preceding State fiscal year, including demographic information, client data, shelter and motel usage rates, clients’ primary stated cause of homelessness, and average lengths of stay in emergency housing by demographic group and by type of housing”



Related GA Provision: Rental or Mortgage Arrearage Program

- Directs DCF to provide up to 3 months of rental or mortgage arrearage assistance to eligible families
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